

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/576,386

Examiner

Nathan Hillery

Applicant(s)

CARDEN, WILLIAM T.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE, 11/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 22, 24-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 38, 40-49, 51, 52, 54, 56-65, 67-73 and 75-88.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/21/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Heather R. Herndon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffri Kaminski on 11/21/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 78. ~~A system for managing and reviewing documents, said system comprising: a processor; a memory; and a database, wherein said memory carries thereon managing and reviewing software, which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising~~ A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium including control logic stored therein, said control logic enabling management and review of documents, said control logic, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to carry out steps comprising:

providing a submission module to enable a submitter to provide a submission to the system, providing an administrative module to enable administration of the system, providing a chair module to enable delegation of review and approval of the submission, providing a review module to enable review of all aspects of the submission, providing a planning module to enable scheduling a presentation relating to content of said submission during said meeting characterized in that said submission module being adapted to upload text and graphics, accept flexible submission file formats, produce at

Art Unit: 2176

least one selectable output format of said submission, produce complete proofs of said submission for user approval, shield an identity of at least one reviewer from said submitter of said submission, capture data to facilitate a peer review process, enable immediate review of said submission, display submission status at any time, and generate automatic email correspondence;

said administrative module being adapted to search the database and display results, track said submission, track author data, track reviewer/chairperson data and performance, track decisions, automatically notify late reviewers/chairpersons, grant or change user permissions, and download said submission for editing and production;

said chair module being adapted to display full text and graphics for review of said submission, enter accept/reject/revise decisions into the database at any stage, search for and select reviewers from the database, view reviewer history and current workload, invite reviewers to review all aspects of said submission, add comments/notes to said submission, and generate automatic email correspondence;

said review module being adapted to provide all aspects of said submission to said reviewer for peer review, provide a common score sheet specific to a meeting to an chairperson, and enable entry of accept/reject/revise recommendations for said submission into the database.

Claim 79. A system for managing and reviewing documents, said system comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

Art Unit: 2176

a database,

wherein said memory carries thereon managing and reviewing software, ~~which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to carry out steps~~ comprising:

~~providing~~ a submission module to enable a submitter to provide a manuscript to the system, said submission module being adapted to upload text and graphics, accept flexible submission file formats, produce at least one selectable output format of said submission, produce complete proofs of said submission for user approval, shield an identity of at least one reviewer from said submitter of said submission, capture data to facilitate a peer review process, enable immediate review of said submission, display submission status at any time, and generate automatic email correspondence;

~~providing~~ an administrative module to enable administration of the system, said administrative module being adapted to search the database and display results, track said submission, track author data, track reviewer/chairperson data and performance, track decisions, automatically notify late reviewers/chairpersons, grant or change user permissions, and download said submission for editing and production;

~~providing~~ a chair module to enable delegation of review and approval of the submission, said chair module being adapted to display full text and graphics for review of said submission, enter accept/reject/revise decisions into the database at any stage, search for and select reviewers from the database, view reviewer history and current workload, invite reviewers to review all aspects of said submission, add comments/notes to said submission, and generate automatic email correspondence;

Art Unit: 2176

~~providing~~ a review module to enable review of all aspects of the submission, said review module being adapted to provide all aspects of said submission to said reviewer for peer review, provide a common score sheet specific to a meeting to an chairperson, and enable entry of accept/reject/revise recommendations for said submission into the database; and

~~providing~~ a planning module to enable scheduling a presentation relating to content of said submission during said meeting.

Claim 82. The computer program product of claim ~~79~~78, further comprising enabling receipt of said submission in a plurality of different formats.

Claim 83. The computer program product of claim ~~79~~78, wherein the review module further comprises enabling multiple reviewers to review all aspects of said submission simultaneously.

Claim 84. The system of claim ~~78~~79, further comprising enabling receipt of said submission in a plurality of different formats.

Claim 85. The system of claim ~~78~~79, wherein the review module further comprises enabling multiple reviewers to review all aspects of said submission simultaneously.

Art Unit: 2176

Claim 87. The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 78, further comprising shielding an identity of said author from at least one reviewer.

Claim 88. The ~~method~~ system of claim 79, further comprising shielding an identity of said author from at least one reviewer.

Consequently, claims 78, 79, 82 – 85, 87 and 88 are herein amended.

Thus, claims 22, 24 – 27, 29 – 33, 35, 36, 38, 40 – 49, 51, 52, 54, 56 – 65, 67 – 73 and 75 – 88 are now allowed. It should be noted that claims 22, 24 – 27, 29 – 33, 35, 36, 38, 40 – 49, 51, 52, 54, 56 – 65, 67 – 73 and 75 – 88 have been renumbered 2 – 13, 21 – 33, 40 – 52, 14 – 16, 34, 35, 53, 54, 1, 20, 39, 17, 18, 36, 37, 55, 56, 19, 38, and 57, respectively.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4091. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2176

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NH


Heather R. Herndon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100